

Faculty of Music
University of Toronto

thursday evening series

CHHAU, THE MASKED DANCE OF BENGAL

Dancers

Kshirod Sing Mura
Jagru Mahato
Gambhir Sing Mura
Janak Sing Mura
Anil Kumar Sutradhar
Deepnarayan Mahato
Ramesh Kumar
Kalebar Kumar

Musicians

Ganesh Kalindi (Shenai)
Dhruba Laya (Dhol)
Buddheswar Machoar (Dhamsa)

Director

Asutosh Bhattacharyya

MACMILLAN THEATRE, EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING
JANUARY 30, 1975 at 8:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

THE KILLING OF THE BUFFALO-DEMON MAHISHA

Ganesha and Kartikeya, the sons of the great god Shiva were dancing one day in the courtyard of their house when the demon Mahisha appeared before them. Shiva had endowed Mahisha with great powers which enabled him to drive away the gods from the heavens. When he appeared before the two sons of Shiva they fought with him one after the other but both were defeated. Then appeared Durga, the mother of the two gods. She attacked the demon with the determination to kill and after a great battle defeated him.

Ganesh	Kshirod Sing Mura
Kartik	Jagru Mahato
Asur (demon)	Gambhir Sing Mura
Lion	Janak Sing Mura
Durga	Anil Kumar Sutradhar
Lakshmi	Deepnarayan Mahato
Saraswati	Ramesh Kumar

THE DEATH OF THE DEMONESS TADAKA

Rama and Lakshmana, the two young sons of the King of Ayodhya, were proceeding one day to the court of Mithila with the sage Viswamitra. On the way there, they passed the abode of a demoness who used to disturb the sages during their religious practices. Rama, the young hero of the Ramayana, wanted to help the sages. He waited on the road with his brother, and in no time the demoness appeared and attacked them. But they overpowered her and killed her.

Rama	Deepnarayan Mahato
Lakshmana	Janak Sing Mura
Tadaka (demoness)	Jagru Mahato
Viswamitra	Anil Kumar Sutradhar

THE BOW CONTEST

Janaka, the king of Mithila, had a daughter, and he declared that whoever could shoot an arrow from a bow which he had received from the great god Shiva, would receive the hand of his daughter in marriage. Kings of many countries came to the court of Janaka, but none was able to lift the bow from the ground. Ultimately Rama appeared with his brother Lakshmana accompanied by Viswamitra. Lakshmana said that he could shoot an arrow from the bow. But Viswamitra, the sage, wanted Rama to win the contest. Rama lifted the bow from the ground and as he was about to shoot an arrow, the bow broke into two pieces. As promised, Sita, the daughter of Janaka, became Rama's wife.

Parasurama was a great devotee of Shiva. When he heard that Rama had broken the divine bow of Shiva he became very angry and attacked him. But Rama pacified him.

King No. 1	Kshirod Sing Mura
King No. 2	Jagru Mahato
King No. 3	Gambhir Sing Mura
Ravana	Kalebar Kumar
Rama	Deepnarayan Mahato
Lakshmana	Janak Sing Mura
Sita	Anil Kumar Sutradhar
Parasurama	Ramesh Kumar

INTERMISSION

THE LAST DAY OF LORD KRISHNA

After the battle of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna was very sad and melancholy. One day he was sitting under a tree in a lonely forest. A hunter came in search of prey. From a distance he saw something which resembled the ears of a deer. Actually, it was the soles of Krishna's feet. The hunter shot an arrow and killed Krishna. The hunter realized his mistake and deeply regretted his hasty actions. After he left, Arjuna appeared in search of Krishna, and found him dead. He carried the news to the members of his family. The women came there weeping.

Krishna	Ramesh Kumar
Hunter	Gambhir Sing Mura
Arjuna	Janak Sing Mura
Weeping Women	Anil Kumar Sutradhar
	Deepnarayan Mahato
	Kshirod Sing Mura

THE TRAGIC END OF ABHIMANYU

On the thirteenth day of the battle of Kurukshetra (the battle continued for eighteen days), Acharya Drona, the commander-in-chief of the Kauravas took a vow that he would kill Abhimanyu, the young son of Arjuna and nephew of Lord Krishna. Seven great warriors of the Kaurava's army attacked Abhimanyu one by one, but all were defeated by him single-handedly. Then, Acharya Drona laid a trap. Seven warriors suddenly surrounded Abhimanyu cutting him off from his army. The seven warriors fought against him simultaneously. After holding out for a long time against these heavy odds, Abhimanyu died in the battle.

Abhimanyu	Ramesh Kumar
Karna	Jagru Mahato
Duryodhana	Deepnarayan Mahato
Drona	Kalebar Kumar
Aswatthama	Janak Sing Mura
Dushasana	Kshirod Sing Mura
Sakuni	Anil Kumar Sutradhar
Kripa	Gambhir Sing Mura

The tour of Chhau, The Masked Dance of Bengal, is sponsored by The Performing Arts Program of the Asia Society under a grant from The High Winds Fund.

Next Thursday Evening Series: FEBRUARY 13, 1975
GERARD SOUZAY, baritone

Next Event: Thursday Scholarship Series, FEBRUARY 6, 1975
PATRICIA PARR, piano, LORAND FENYVES, violin,
VLADIMIR ORLOFF, cello